

THE PKEPARATIONS FUR TUB RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN.

As far back as the winter of IKIO Xapoleon formed the project of attacking Russia,, and of reducing her to the state of dependence which had be.com« the lot of the »reat (Jcrman monarchies. He originally intended to declare war in the. spring or summer of 1811, and to limit his effort H to a campaign on the. Niewc.n; but- us his preparations were not then. complete, and the hesitating policy of the KtiMNian (? ahinct, alarmed at the prospect before if, seemed to assure him time to mature, bis plana, he delayed Urn enterprise, till tin* following year, and finally decided that it should assume the most formidable proi*orlionH. Napoleon's general design, apart from tin* extravagance of the original conception, was marked by the profound skill in stratagem, the Hear insight, and the admirable combinations which almost always distinguished his strategy. Though ho continued the cxhaiiHting eonteHt in Spain, In* resolved to collect and draw together an army of such overwhelming strength that it could safely attempt to Htihilu<* HtiH^ia, and, cont[K*Hitig Austria and Prusxia to join him, to move It gradually to tin* banks «»f tin* Niiunen, and launch it thcuce Info ihi* heart of th*» Hu^hian Kmpin\ The positionn he Imlii uJMWi t!w Vistula, and altnoHt «|«»« tbi* UiiHsian frontier, would finable him, li«* <H>nlfilently hoped, to screen thin o)M*riition for a roimider- able time; his domination over Northern (iernmny wmild give him the mtutiiH of directing bin maHM^s in Herurity from Ih* Utiint* and tin* Kliw; ant!)M*tw<*.en lite vturfflatioiiH *>1 th«» C*/air anti i-hi* tru«t^ and HuhniiHsion of Kiurojn% he calculateii that he would %iir*e«l In reaching th«» Nk»mrn in eommantUng for*»» without e.ncotmfering real i>p|«»«lili»n» Thedifticulties of this iniiuenfte <iinljiiit"«ii» the itarren »«.ili» mid the cHnmte of itusftia ni- main^d yet to Im mi>t iind eoi«|tMfri*«I; but he hn<! copwl with them In 1807, and he would make miilit*lt>itt provision agaSnut titem* The great trading-ports on the North (taritmn Hcal«»itrl nhoulil Im n»il« ihi* ba**IH of his operations; va>t nm^/hum fthoulcl te formwl In tlw»i«» and their sup- plies b« nent into Itiwula by wnler-imrrlt^ along tins Friwhe Huff; and, without foregoing a Iwld offi*n?«ivi»« thf* mrntv niifiil«l teir along with It the meatK of «wsiftti*iiio! in aitifile c|wiil!lii»M together with all it* other material. *The <ib>tmc!lt*» In my wiij iir«» great/ wrciii* Na|

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confUidential taller, when riimlimting on his proje*«*l, *
but with th«
Appliances I can commnud w« tdmll l»* mbli* to drvour all
olwlaHr.*.* **Th« later monthn of 1811 mini ilii! lint of the
Huw^wtinn yimr employe*! by Na|K>)«on *in* iire|wi'a!Ji»iw
for rarrying t«it this d«Ign* Francut annw^red bravely liii
stiiiiitiotii to armii, and niaK*n*H of conscripts were athliui u>
t|w Itiglniii whkrh, though twirlWy ihlnnrd by the havoc and
privations of war, still containtd Mililliiri of Man*ngo and